

R1/6

7CR85

In Confidence - Not to be quoted without reference to the Laboratory

FRV "Clupea"

AMM

Cruise 7/85

REPORT

12 June - 2 July 1985

<u>Personnel</u>	J R G Hislop	PSO (in charge)
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	K J Peach	ASO
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### Objectives

- 1 To obtain an index of abundance of O-group haddock in the northern North Sea.
- 2 To obtain livewhiting and O-group gadoids.

### Narrative

The scientific staff joined "Clupea" at Buckie on the morning of 12 June. As a northerly gale was blowing, sailing had to be put off until 13 June. During the next six days the 19 primary survey stations were worked, after which "Clupea" called at Lerwick for a half landing on the evening of 18 June. After Lerwick had been left, work proceeded smoothly until the late afternoon of 23 June, when a mechanical fault developed forcing "Clupea" to go to Aberdeen for repairs. She left Aberdeen on 26 June and work continued without further interruptions. "Clupea" docked at Buckie at 2030 hrs on 1 July.

### Results

#### 1 O-group abundance

Sixteen of the primary stations were worked twice and additional hauls were made at Fair Isle and east and west of the Orkneys. Although haddock were taken in all but one of the 43 hauls, the catches were often small. The average catch per haul (89) within the primary survey area was the lowest on record. It should be noted, however, that during the first week of the survey water temperatures were low and many of the O-group gadoids in the catches were extremely small. As the cruise progressed the water became warmer and the fish caught were noticeably bigger. In those rectangles that were sampled twice catches were, in general, greater on the second occasion. It is possible, then, that during the beginning of the survey some of the haddock may have been still small enough to pass through the codend meshes.

27.2

The 1985 survey was directed at haddock and covered a smaller area than in previous years. Because some of the rectangles in which 0-group cod and whiting are often abundant were not sampled, it would be unwise to speculate on the relative abundance of these species in 1985.

The distribution of Norway pout, however, usually corresponds closely with that of haddock, ie they are generally most abundant within the primary survey area. In all previous surveys, catches of Norway pout within this area have greatly outnumbered those of the other gadoids. In 1985, however, Norway pout were extremely scarce and the average catch per haul (7) was lower than those of haddock (89) and whiting (13) and only marginally higher than that of cod (5). Sandeels were also extremely scarce in 1985.

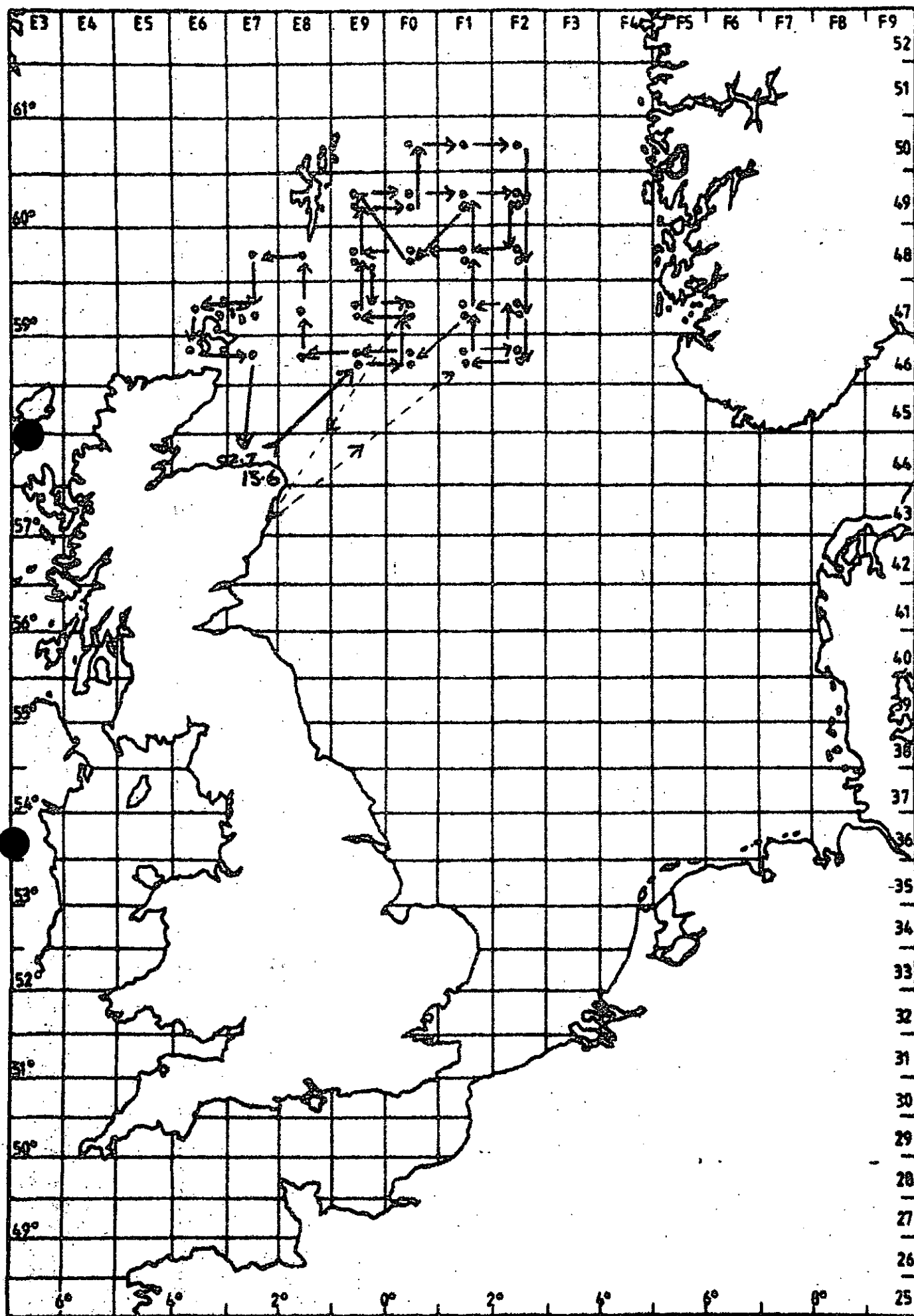
## 2 Collection of live fish

A small number of live 0-group gadoids (including a torsk) were brought back to the aquarium. Handlining was attempted on several occasions but was largely unsuccessful; only two live whiting were obtained for the aquarium.

J R G Hislop

2 August 1985

Seen in draft: W Smith OIC



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